

To: R7 Daily Digest INBOX[R7_Daily_Digest_INBOX@epa.gov]
From: Bryan, David
Sent: Thur 5/28/2015 8:30:55 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest for 5/28/15

OPA Daily Digest for 5/28/15

Upcoming EPA Region 7 Events by Division

* New additions noted with an asterisk

RA:

6/13/15 – River Cleanup Event, Parkville, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

***6/25/15** – National Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting, Washington D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

6/29/15 – Budget Meeting, Washington D.C. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

***7/21-23/15** – Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting, White Cloud, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

DRA:

6/29/15 – Budget Meeting, Washington D.C. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

***7/21-23/15** – Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting, White Cloud, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

7/29/15 – Kansas City Regional Interagency COOP Exercise (RICE), Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

***5/31 - 6/5/2015** – FE&C Data Certification Lean/Kiazen Event, Washington, D.C., Contact: Neal Gilbert, 7985

***6/1 & 2/2015** – Public Meeting, York, Neb., Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

***6/15 to 19/2015** – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, D.C., Contact: DeAndre Singletary, 7373

***6/16 & 17/2015** – Public Availability Session, Atlantic, Iowa, Contact: Pam Houston, 7699

***6/23 & 24/2015** – Four State Directors Meeting, Moravia, Iowa, Contact: DeAndre Singletary, 7373

ENST

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

6/2-4/15 – National Removal Managers Meeting, Chicago, Ill. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

8/6-8/15 – LEPC/TERC Conference, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: John Frey, 7994

8/24-27/15 – Marathon Pipeline Table-top Exercise with Region 5 and USCG, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Heath Smith, 636-326-4724

WWPD

6/2-4/15 – National EPA Underground Injection Control Program Managers Meeting, Denver, Colo. Contact: Mary Mindrup, 7431

6/23-24/15 – Four State Directors Meeting, Moravia, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Jerry Moran (Kan.) – Email – 5/26/15: City of De Soto questions about asbestos cleanup at the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant. Due: 5/28/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (Mo.) – Email – 5/20/15: Constituent concerns about sampling of sod along the Big River in Jefferson County that may be contaminated with lead. Due: 6/3/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Deb Fischer (Neb.) – Letter – 5/18/15: Pending dispute resolution claim regarding a federal contract. Due: 6/1/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (Neb.) – Email – 5/5/15: Constituent questions about new rules for glider semi-trucks. Due: 5/7/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Houston Public Radio (Texas) – Dave Fehling – 5/1/15 – Request for audio of Green Village bench ribbon cutting ceremony. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

Al-Jazeera America – Stephanie Becker – 5/21/15 – Questions about the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

KSHB Channel 41, Kansas City – Steve Kaut – 5/28/15 – Questions about EPA’s \$500,000 Brownfields assessment grant to Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis – Veronique LaCapra – 5/28/15 – Questions about EPA’s \$400,000 Brownfields assessment grants to St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch – Jacob Barker – 5/28/15 – Questions about what happens after a state implementation plan is rejected. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

TIME – David Johnson – 5/28/15 - Working on a story about different levels of municipal solid waste per region. Coordinating with HQ EPA Press Office. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

Kansas City, Mo., and St. Louis to Receive EPA Brownfields Grants to Help toward Cleanup of Contaminated Properties – 5/28/15 – Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Environmental Stories:

Des Moines Register - Farm groups fuming over new EPA water rule - 5/27/15 - Farm and livestock groups on Wednesday warned that the Obama administration's new regulation to curb pollution in small waterways and wetlands could infringe on their land rights and saddle them with higher costs — concerns that White House officials said were unfounded. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2015/05/27/epa-water-rules-iowa/28038957/>

Omaha World-Herald - EPA rule expands protection of waters; Midlands lawmakers vow to continue opposition - 5/27/15 - Nebraska and Iowa Republicans in Congress who have been fighting the water rule on behalf of farmers and developers vowed more opposition. http://www.omaha.com/news/nebraska/epa-rule-expands-protection-of-waters-midlands-lawmakers-vow-to/article_0e357cd0-4ffe-5710-813a-ee14a957a6f5.html

Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal - Kansas congressional delegation pans 'Waters of the U.S.' rule | Document dictates which waterways can be regulated by EPA, Army - 5/27/15 - Members of Kansas' congressional delegation offered ardent criticism Wednesday of President Barack Obama's decision to move forward with a rule to expand the Clean Water Act to include more bodies of water. <http://cjonline.com/news/2015-05-27/kansas-congressional-delegation-pans-waters-us-rule>

Also Hutchinson (Kan.) News

Wichita Eagle - White House finalizes clean water rule, setting up clash with Congress - 5/27/15 - The White House on Wednesday finalized a rule intended to strengthen and clarify the Clean Water Act, setting up a clash with Republicans in Congress and the agriculture industry. Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback said, "This final rule from the EPA continues a pattern of federal overreach, by asserting broader federal jurisdiction over local water and land use." <http://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article22487775.html>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Federal water protections expand as Missouri finally moves on old requirements - 5/28/15 - Just as Missouri was making strides toward complying with decades-old federal regulations governing the state's streams, wetlands and lakes, the Obama administration set the bar even higher. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/federal-water-protections-expand-as-missouri-finally-moves-on-old/article_0f1450f2-1452-5528-be55-f9432a10c26e.html

NBC Nebraska - EPA Finalizes Waters of the United States Regulations, Farmers and Politicians React - 5/27/15 - The EPA announced they are finalizing the Waters of the United States regulations, which would mean more regulation for tributaries, streams and other small bodies of waters. These regulations have farmers and local politicians concerned and upset. <http://www.nbcneb.com/home/headlines/EPA-Finalizes-Waters-of-the-United-States-Regulations-Farmers-and-Politicians-React--305253551.html>

St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press - Over objections, EPA finalizes water rule - 5/27/15 - A proposed EPA regulation that many Republican lawmakers called an overreach of executive authority became a reality on Wednesday. Opponents, including some who stewarded legislation to curtail funds for the rule's implementation, insist the so-called "Waters of the United States" edict infringes on private property rights and exhibits a "government-knows-best" arrogance. http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/article_2b2bd1c3-de2e-566d-a3a7-cbb3e1caal43.html

Agriculture.com - How the Federal Clean Water Act Rule May Impact Prairie Pothole Country - 5/27/15 - On

one extreme, today's announcement of the final rule for the Clean Water Act is being hailed by federal agencies and environmental groups as ensuring clean water with no or little pain for farmers. On the other extreme, it's being condemned by some farm groups as an extensive and unprecedented federal land grab. In reality, how this rule affects farmers lies in the details. http://www.agriculture.com/news/policy/how-federal-cle-water-act-rule-may_4-ar49001

WHO Ch. 13 Des Moines (video) - Clean Water Rule Finalized - 5/28/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency released the finalized Clean Water Rule on May 27. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey says the final rule has nearly 300 pages and will take time to review. He adds the entire rule making process has created unnecessary challenges. <http://whotv.com/2015/05/28/clean-water-rule-finalized/>

Dredging News Online - Blunt Attacks Obama's "Takeover" of Private Waters - 5/28/15 - US Senator Roy Blunt (Mo) issued the following statement after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its finalized Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule: "The EPA's rule represents an unprecedented power grab by the Obama Administration that will hurt farm families, job creation, home construction, roads, and energy development in Missouri and nationwide. <http://whotv.com/2015/05/28/clean-water-rule-finalized/>

KIOW-AM Forest City, Iowa - Ernst Statement on Final WOTUS Rule - 5/27/15 - Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) issued the following statement: "I am still reviewing the lengthy nature of this final rule, however, I remain concerned that the EPA did not seriously consider the comments and perspective from whom this rule will directly effect. The EPA has repeatedly ignored the legitimate concerns raised throughout this process and continues to act as an unchecked federal agency of the Obama Administration." <http://kiow.com/2015/05/28/ernst-statement-on-final-wotus-rule/>

Grand Island Independent (Neb.) - Fischer, Nebraska groups respond to new Clean Water rules - 5/27/15 - Sen. Deb Fischer, R-Neb., said:

"This rule is an attack on the people of Nebraska," Fischer said. "Through this unprecedented overreach, the federal government will now extend their control over our state's water resources and burden our families with costly permit requirements. Make no mistake — this is a blatant attempt to expand the federal government's control. This rule will have far-reaching consequences and hurt Nebraska families, communities, and businesses." http://www.theindependent.com/news/ag_news/fischer-nebraska-groups-respond-to-new-clean-water-rules/article_2e42ec3a-04be-11e5-a656-cf166fdf8471.html

The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa - Cheers, jeers greet new water rule | Regulation to strengthen Clean Water Act sets up clash with farmers - 5/27/15 - U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, statement said: "The rule could result in significant red tape and expense for Iowa farmers as they make routine decisions about how best to use their land, even ironically hampering projects to improve water quality." <http://thegazette.com/subject/news/business/cheers-jeers-greet-new-water-rule-20150527>

KSN Ch. 3 Wichita - EPA announces Clean Water Rule - 5/28/15 - Federal overreach, that's what opponents of the Clean Water Rule think about Wednesday morning's decision. "The overriding concern is unnecessary regulation," said Mark Rude, Executive Director of the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 3. <http://ksn.com/2015/05/27/epa-announces-clean-water-rule/>

Lincoln (Neb.) Journal Star - Hotly contested Clean Water Rule finalized; opponents cry foul - 5/19/15 - President Barack Obama's administration on Wednesday revealed the final version of controversial new rules aimed at protecting streams and wetlands from pollution and degradation. John Crabtree of the Nebraska Center for Rural Affairs, which supported efforts to clarify the Clean Water Act, said the final rules address many of the concerns his organization expressed to the EPA. http://journalstar.com/news/local/hotly-contested-clean-water-rule-finalized-opponents-cry-foul/article_4ba203f4-e81b-5b19-9831-57fe2e33f07f.html

Agri-Pulse - Ag groups, lawmakers fuming at release of final WOTUS rule - 5/28/15 - Agriculture groups and farm-state lawmakers reacted with sharp criticism today after the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers released the final rule redefining which waters of the U.S. can be regulated under the Clean Water Act. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, one of the most vocal groups in opposition to the rule, said the EPA is pushing an agenda rather than trying to approach new regulations sensibly. <http://www.agri-pulse.com/Ag-groups-lawmakers-fuming-at-release-of-final-WOTUS-rule-05272015.asp>

WNAX Radio, Yankton, S.D. - Groups Disappointed with Clean Water Rule - 5/27/15 - Common Sense Nebraska, a coalition of farm and business and consumer groups, is expressing concern with Clean Water Rule released Wednesday by EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. <http://wnax.com/news/180081-groups-disappointed-with-clean-water-rule/>

Daily Signal - Obama's Latest Environmental Action: A New Water Rule - 5/27/15 - In a controversial use of executive power, the Obama administration has finalized a set of environmental regulations expanding its authority over the nation's waterways. <http://dailysignal.com/2015/05/27/obamas-latest-environmental-action-a-new-water-rule/>

Wall-Street Journal - EPA's Amphibious Attack - 5/28/15 - While retrenching abroad, the Obama Administration remains committed to expanding Washington's footprint at home. Behold the Environmental Protection Agency's rewrite Wednesday of the Clean Water Act that extends federal jurisdiction over tens of millions of acres of private land. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/epas-amphibious-attack-1432769456>

The Hill - Dems buck Obama on water rule - 5/28/15 - Dozens of congressional Democrats are joining Republicans to back legislation blocking the Obama administration's new rule to redefine its jurisdiction over the nation's waterways. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/243299-democrats-buck-obama-on-water-rule>

NPR - EPA Announces New Rules To Protect U.S. Waters (audio-3:55) - 5/27/15 - The Obama administration announces a regulation it says is aimed at protecting the country's rivers, lakes and other waterways from pollution. But critics say it's a massive regulatory overreach. <http://www.npr.org/2015/05/27/410074561/epa-announces-new-rules-to-protect-u-s-waters>

Huffington Post - Opinion: The Biggest Step for Clean Water in a Decade - 5/28/15 - The Obama administration has just finalized a new rule to help protect drinking water for one in three Americans. By shielding streams and wetlands that have been vulnerable to pollution since the 2000's, the president is giving us the best news we've had for clean water in years. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/margie-alt/the-biggest-step-for-clean-water-in-a-decade_b_7457342.html

KTRS Radio, St. Louis - Local Republicans sound off on new EPA regulations - 5/27/15 - Area Republican legislators are fighting back at new regulations aimed at protecting drinking water. The White House said the rules would provide much-needed clarity for landowners, but some Republicans and farm groups said they go much too far. <http://www.ktrs.com/local-republicans-sound-off-on-new-epa-regulations/>

Ethanol Magazine - Iowa lawmakers, America's Renewable Future call for strong RFS - 3/27/15 - Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Joni Ernst, R-Iowa; Reps. Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa; Steve King, R-Iowa; David Young, R-Iowa, and Rod Blum, R-Iowa,—Iowa's entire federal delegation—urged the EPA to keep the renewable volume obligation (RVO) levels consistent with Congress's intent when the renewable fuel standard (RFS) became law. The EPA is set to propose RVO targets for 2014, 2015, and 2016 by June 1. <http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/12276/iowa-lawmakers-americaundefineds-renewable-future-call-for-strong-rfs>

BNA - EPA Grapples With Competing Rationales for Setting Renewable Fuel Requirements - 5/26/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency is grappling with how much ethanol the market can absorb as petroleum refiners and renewable fuels producers offer competing rationales for how renewable fuel blending requirements should be set in an upcoming proposed rule. <http://www.bna.com/epa-grapples-competing-n17179927077/>

Farm Futures - More RFS support ahead of EPA's RVO announcement - 5/28/15 - Renewable fuels groups and pro-renewable fuel legislators this week are ramping up support for the Renewable Fuel Standard ahead of EPA's required renewable volume obligation announcement on or before June 1. <http://farmfutures.com/story-more-rfs-support-ahead-epas-rvo-announcement-0-128117>

Ethanol Magazine - NREL: Most fueling equipment is compatible with E15 - 5/27/15 - The National Renewable Energy Laboratory recently released a study that has determined most existing fuel dispensing components, including underground storage tanks, are compatible with E15. <http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/12278/nrel-most-fueling-equipment-is-compatible-with-e15>

Biodiesel Magazine - Renewable share of US energy consumption highest since 1930s - 5/28/15 - Renewable energy accounted for 9.8 percent of total domestic energy consumption in 2014. This marks the highest renewable energy share since the 1930s, when wood was a much larger contributor to domestic energy supply.
<http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/articles/401322/renewable-share-of-us-energy-consumption-highest-since-1930s>

Inside Energy - Next Generation Fuels Stuck In Neutral - 5/28/15 - The federal government's complex set of rules meant to spur a renewable fuels industry has fallen behind one of its main goals: cut greenhouse emissions from gasoline. <http://insideenergy.org/2015/05/28/next-generation-fuels-stuck-in-neutral/>

Associated Press - EPA plans temporary pesticide restrictions while bees feed - 5/28/15 - A federal rule to be proposed Thursday would create temporary pesticide-free zones when certain plants are in bloom around bees that are trucked from farm to farm by professional beekeepers, which are the majority of honeybees in the U.S.
<http://www.kansascity.com/news/government-politics/article22492335.html>

Iowa Farmer Today - Leaders call for biochemical tax credits for ethanol, biodiesel - 5/26/15 - Debi Durham, the state's economic development director, is championing legislation that would set aside up to \$15 million in tax credits per year to encourage ethanol and biodiesel plants to extract chemicals that could be used in consumer products such as plastics and textiles, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.
http://www.iowafarmertoday.com/news/leaders-call-for-biochemical-tax-credits-for-ethanol-biodiesel/article_0a281636-ff14-11e4-8b38-0b74284efcd0.html

Politico - Inside the war on coal - 5/28/15 - Feature discusses how Mike Bloomberg, red-state business, and a lot of Midwestern lawyers are changing American energy faster than you think -
<http://www.politico.com/agenda/issue/future-of-power-june-2015>

Huffington Post - Bridging the Gap Between Health and Environmental Sustainability - 5/27/15 - I've been working at the intersection of health and the environment for over 25 years. While my research in this space has evolved over time, I inevitably keep coming back to the same insight: human health and the environment are undeniably and wholly dependent on each other. One cannot and does not thrive without the other.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/eileen-mcneely/bridging-the-gap-between-3_b_7451406.html

Brookings Institute - Infrastructure lending must be based on environmental and social safeguards - 5/28/15 - Development banks are gearing up for increased infrastructure financing to support the drive for stronger economic growth. But, unless accompanied by protective safeguards, these projects risk damaging the environment, climate, and communities—and actually hindering growth. <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/future-development/posts/2015/05/28-infrastructure-environment-banks-thomas>

The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa - Iowa state archaeologist wants testing before Bakken pipeline approval -
5/28/15 - Iowa's state archaeologist contends the proposed Bakken Pipeline carrying crude from North Dakota to Illinois should face the same scrutiny as a state project with potential to disrupt archaeological sites.
<http://thegazette.com/subject/news/government/iowa-state-archaeologist-wants-testing-before-bakken-pipeline-20150527>

POWER (magazine) - EPA Takes Action to Eliminate Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction Emissions Exemptions - 5/27/15 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a state implementation plan (SIP) call action to 36 states directing them to correct specific startup, shutdown, and malfunction provisions in their SIPs to ensure they are fully consistent with the Clean Air Act (CAA). <http://www.powermag.com/epa-takes-action-to-eliminate-startup-shutdown-and-malfunction-emissions-exemptions/>

WQAD Ch. 8 Quad Cities - Birds shipped to incinerator and landfills as bird flu spreads to more counties in Iowa - 4/27/15 - Highly pathogenic avian influenza spread to more counties in Iowa, affecting more than a million additional birds. Because of the large number of affected birds, a large incinerator in Cherokee County was to begin processing the euthanized birds and other materials the week after Memorial Day. <http://wqad.com/2015/05/27/birds-shipped-to-incinerator-and-landfills-as-bird-flu-spreads-to-more-counties-in-iowa/>